

September 20, 2023



FROM THE DESK OF
COMMISSIONER
BRENT BAILEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the continuous work we are doing for the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.

Brent Bailey

Vicksburg/Warren County
Community Forum

The Mississippi Public Service Commission's Central District held its second Community Forum in Warren County at the City of Vicksburg Board Room. The event provided utility customers from Warren County and western Hinds County the opportunity to learn more about the role and responsibilities of the MPSC as well as have an in depth discussion on Entergy Mississippi's report to the MPSC regarding their overall response to the June 2023 storm events. **You can watch the entire meeting at:** <https://fb.watch/na5KLU5fRB/?mibextid=cr9u03>



Several customers expressed their frustration with the lack of clear communication regarding the storm impacts, incorrect messages, and customer service challenges they experienced. My office appreciates the feedback provided at this Forum and will work with the appropriate utility to address those concerns. Thank you for your continued support and interest and I hope you will join us at our next [Community Forum](#) on **September 26 at 6 pm at the Buster Brown Community Center, 400 E Robertshaw Street, Greenville, MS.**

September 22 is World Energy Storage Day



**WORLD ENERGY
STORAGE DAY**

22 September, 2023
www.energystorageday.org

Energy storage technologies have emerged as a critical factor in the early evolution and diversification of the global, national and state energy portfolio. The pursuit of a sustainable energy future is driving significant investments in battery energy storage systems and other associated technologies. From

stationary energy solutions to electrified transportation to green hydrogen generation, energy storage technologies have the potential to transform the energy landscape. (Speaking of green hydrogen, RMI and Hy Stor Energy [discuss how the Mississippi Clean Hydrogen Hub](#) provides energy security benefits for critical industries.)

An energy storage system is used to store energy and supply it for later use. While most people tend to think of a battery as the most common form of energy storage, other energy storage systems are chemical, electromechanical, mechanical and thermal. **World Energy Storage Day** is a platform to evaluate and promote energy storage technologies and bring together industry leaders, policymakers and other stakeholders to advance the financial feasibility and scalability of energy storage systems.



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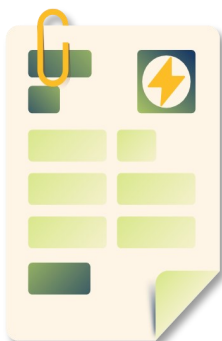
Fossil fuels (petroleum, coal, natural gas) provide nearly 78% of the world's energy. Renewable energy sources (hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass) account for about 18% of global energy consumption. Meanwhile, nuclear energy accounts for around 5% of the world's energy supply. While there seems to be a desire around the world for more renewable energy, customers also continue to demand dependable, resilient and reliable energy resources.

Renewable energy is by nature intermittent and energy is produced only during favorable conditions depending on the type of technology. Energy providers therefore must find measures to ensure that electricity is accessible around the clock so that the energy supply is not compromised or disrupted. Energy storage technologies could be a solution to support emerging economies, improve grid stability, and create certainty for consumers.

In September 2020, I wrote about ["Energy Storage as an Energy Resource"](#) in an early edition of our weekly newsletter. Just like then, researchers and energy economists today are trying to determine the best methods and technologies for storing large amounts of energy while maintaining energy affordability, responding to market and policy trends, and understanding critical material sourcing.

The Mississippi Public Service Commission (MPSC) has approved over 155 MW of capacity of energy storage systems. Over 1000 MW of energy storage systems capacity is currently under evaluation by transmission operators in the state. Utilities can use energy storage to relieve congestion on the grid as well as balance loads on the grid and extend infrastructure life. Homes and businesses can also utilize energy storage systems "behind the meter" to optimize distributed generation, lower peak power consumption and achieve self-sufficiency. The MPSC last year included in its revised Mississippi Distributed Generation Rule a residential battery energy storage system incentive program that is compatible with existing or future demand side management or demand response programs.

Energy storage will play a vital role in energy diversification should federal energy policy continue to have an outsized influence in determining where our nation's energy is sourced. Energy storage captures and stores energy during peak periods of production and releases energy during times of high energy demand - ensuring a stable energy supply when other energy resources are not available.



New Household Electric Bill Data

An annual survey by the U.S. Labor Department on what American households spend money on, reported that the average U.S. residential electric bill in 2022 was \$140.25 per month. That's up 8.5% from 2021 when the average bill was \$129.25. But average total household expenditures on all goods and services in 2022 was up 9%. So, electricity's share of total household expenditures remained flat at 2.3%.

The most recent Consumer Price Index (CPI) report brought good news for residential electric utility customers. Residential electric rates in August, year-over-year, were up by only 2.1%. The overall CPI was up 3.7% in the same timeframe meaning that electric rate increases on average were less than the rate of inflation. As a result, over the last six years, from August 2017 to August 2023, electric rates increased 23.6% while general inflation increased 25.1%.

There are considerable differences in average utility bills between regions of the country. The average residential electric bill in the South was \$160.17 per month. While in the more temperate Midwest it was \$123.33. The averages in the West and Northeast are \$129.17 and \$130.92 respectively. Heavy air conditioning usage in the South brings up the average bill nationwide.



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Mississippi Residential Rates

The average residential electricity rate in Mississippi in 2023 is 12.81 cents per kilowatt hour, which is 18.53% less than the U.S. average rate of 15.72 cents. Mississippi ranks as the 16th best priced state in the nation using average electricity rates. Mississippi's average residential monthly electricity bill is \$153.67, ranking 42nd in the nation.

Household Income and Energy Bills

As mentioned above, the average American household's electric bill in 2022 was \$140.25 per month. New data also indicates that average electric bills are very much correlated with overall household income. The higher household income is, in general, the higher is a household's electric bill.



Fifty-two million households, or thirty-nine percent of all households nationally, are in the South. Southerners tend to pay higher electric bills than elsewhere in the U.S due to the warmer climate.

Households in the South with income before taxes of less than fifteen thousand dollars per annum, and those with income of fifteen thousand and more, but less than thirty thousand, averaged monthly electric bills of \$118.75 and \$129.92 respectively. In contrast, those with income of a hundred and fifty thousand and more, but less than two hundred thousand, and those with income of two hundred thousand and more, averaged electric bills of \$174.33 and \$205 respectively.

More differences emerge when comparing electricity's share of total household expenditures. For households with income below fifteen thousand, electricity's share of household expenditures was 4.9%. For households with income of fifteen thousand and more, but less than thirty thousand, electricity's share was 4.4%. For households with income of a hundred and fifty thousand and more, but less than two hundred thousand, electricity's share was 1.9%. For households with incomes of two hundred thousand and more, electricity's share was 1.5%.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

SNAPS



I appreciate the Madison-Ridgeland Rotary Club for having me back as their guest speaker last Thursday to share an overview of the role and functions of the MPSC. I thank Mr. John Rings for the invitation and look forward to another visit.

**FROM THE DESK OF
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CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE**



Last Friday was a beautiful morning for the Groundbreaking Ceremony to celebrate the expansion of Raytheon's Consolidated Manufacturing Center in Forest, MS! This facility will be home to the world's most advanced next generation radar jamming technology. Raytheon is a global leader in aerial warfare



equipment and radar technology and much of it is made right here in MS. My office and MS Power Co. played a small but critical role in ensuring this facility expansion happened here and not in another state. Congrats to Raytheon for this \$50 million investment and creating 100 new high tech jobs for Central MS!!

More Snaps from Vicksburg / Warren County Community Forum



Vicksburg Mayor George Flaggs Jr.



Jason Patterson, Communications Specialist for Yazoo Valley Electric Power Association



Kelle Barfield, Warren County Supervisor, District 5



Entergy Mississippi's Curnis Upkins III, Manager, Region Customer Service, and Victoria Love, Customer Service Manager



FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



Our friends at the MDEQ have been hosting informal focus group meetings with various stakeholders to help develop a state regulatory response to the recent federal court decision on what constitutes a “water of the U.S.” I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this dialogue this morning. At right with Chris Wells (MDEQ) and Patrick Vowell (MSWCC).



**Mark your calendars
Central District!**
These forums will give you the

Click flyers to enlarge

opportunity to learn more about the Commission and its responsibilities. We look forward to discussing ideas and receiving feedback from those who can attend. We hope to see you there!



Upcoming Locations:

Greenville	Jackson	Meridian	Port Gibson
Sept. 26	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Oct. 17



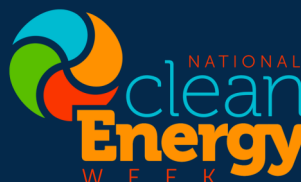
Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **38** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	30
Telecommunications	6
Natural Gas	2

Save the Date

OCTOBER 3

OCTOBER DOCKET MEETING
Tuesday, October 3 at 10 am in the MPSC Hearing Room



Sept. 22—Oct. 1

September 25—29

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